

What is claimed is:

1. An environmentally degradable multicomponent fiber having a configuration selected from the group consisting of sheath-core, islands-in-the-sea, ribbon, segmented pie, side-by-side, and combination thereof; wherein each component of the environmentally degradable multicomponent fiber comprises a material selected from group consisting of destructurized starch, biodegradable thermoplastic polymer having a molecular weight of less than 500,000 g/mol, and combinations thereof.
2. The environmentally degradable multicomponent fiber of Claim 1 wherein one component comprises:
  - a. destructurized starch,
  - b. a biodegradable thermoplastic polymer having a molecular weight of less than about 500,000, and
  - c. a plasticizer.
3. The environmentally degradable multicomponent fiber of Claim 1 wherein one component comprises destructurized starch and a second component comprises a biodegradable thermoplastic polymer having a molecular weight of less than about 500,000 g/mol.
4. The environmentally degradable multicomponent fiber of Claim 1 wherein the fiber has a diameter of less than 200 micrometers.
5. The environmentally degradable multicomponent fiber of Claim 1 wherein the fiber is splittable.
6. The environmentally degradable multicomponent fiber of Claim 1 wherein the fiber is thermally bondable.
7. A nonwoven web comprising the environmentally degradable multicomponent fibers of Claim 6.

8. A nonwoven web wherein the environmentally degradable multicomponent fibers of Claim 6 are blended with other synthetic or natural fibers and bonded together.
9. A disposable article comprising the nonwoven web of Claim 8.
10. An nonwoven web comprising envionrmentally degradable multicomponent fibers having a configuration selected from the group consisting of sheath-core, islands-in-the-sea, ribbon, segmented pie, side-by-side, and combination thereof; wherein each component of the environmentally degradable multicomponent fiber comprises a material selected from group consisting of destructurized starch, biodegradable thermoplastic polymer having a molecular weight of less than 500,000 g/mol, and combinations thereof.
11. A nonwoven web wherein the environmentally degradable multicomponent fibers of Claim 10 are blended with other synthetic or natural fibers and bonded together.
12. A disposable article comprising the nonwoven webs of Claim 10.
13. An envionrmentally degradable bicomponent fiber having a sheath-core configuration wherein the sheath comprises destructurized starch and a plasticizer and the core comprises a biodegradable thermoplastic polymer having a molecular weight of less than 500,000 g/mol.
14. An envionrmentally degradable bicomponent fiber having a sheath-core configuration wherein the sheath comprises a biodegradable thermoplastic polymer having a molecular weight of less than 500,000 g/mol and the core comprises destructurized starch and a plasticizer.